

increased *Colletotricum malvarum* infestation and the degree of infestation decreased with increasing distance away from the unburned area. The direct role of fire in the reproduction of this vernal pool species, however, is limited because increased flower and fruit production were not apparent after the first post-fire season.

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VESTA FLORENCE HESSE, 1901–1982.—Vesta Hesse was a keen observer of variability in plants and one of the most astute students of the flora of Santa Cruz Co., California. Her botanical collections resulted in a greater completeness of the *Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California* (Thomas, J. H., Stanford University Press, 1961). In 1982 in honor of her botanical contributions, she was elected Second Vice-President of the California Botanical Society. Her name is commemorated in *Calyptridium parryi* Gray var. *hesseae* Thomas, an endemic of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Vesta Hesse, next to youngest of eight children, was born and grew up on the outskirts of Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz Co., where her father had settled in 1885. She attended the University of California where she majored in Physics, graduating in 1924. After two years of teaching high school at Angels Camp, Calaveras Co., she decided that teaching was not her forte. The “Depression” of the period made it difficult to find a position elsewhere, so, following the death of her father in 1930,

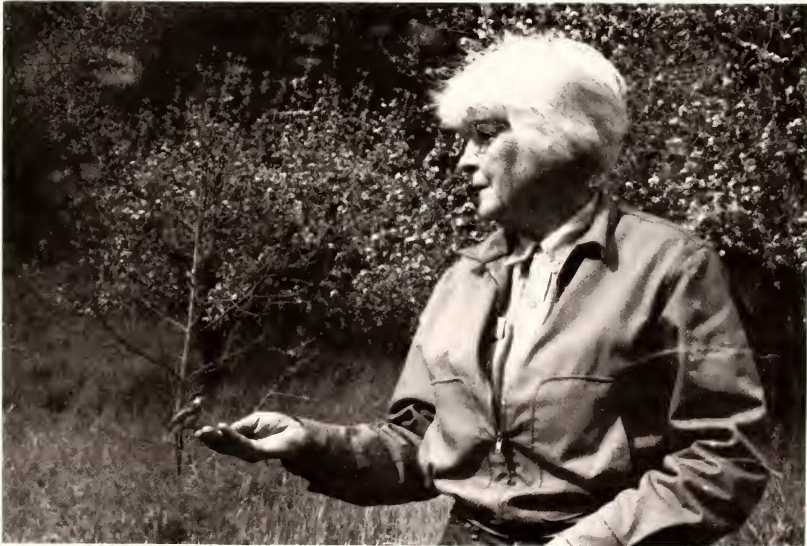


FIG. 1. Vesta Hesse feeding a chickadee.

she returned to Boulder Creek to be with her mother and care for an apple orchard that contained many apple varieties planted by her father. She became interested in the flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains during the mid-1930's and also began corresponding with botanists at a number of institutions. Most of this correspondence concerned the identifications of her specimens, but occasionally the letters revealed interesting facets of her correspondents as well as of her own character.

She corresponded with Dr. Willis Linn Jepson, then Professor of Botany at Berkeley, from 1939 to 1945. He appreciated her keen observations and encouraged her to send him specimens.

Vesta continued to send Santa Cruz County specimens to Jepson—always accompanied by careful notes as to variation and habitat. One such plant was a *Mimulus* from the Ben Lomond sand hill area that she first sent in 1942 and again in 1944. Because she had received no comment on it, she sent a specimen to John Thomas Howell at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco. Mr. Howell replied: "The *mimulus* . . . seems to be an undescribed species. It is related to *M. palmeri*, a Sierran + S. Calif. plant with much longer flowers. If it is alright, I shall name it, using your specimen as the type."

At once, Vesta wrote Dr. Jepson, ". . . I would like you to have the first opportunity to name it if you wish to do so . . .", to which Jepson replied, "It is my custom to inform those who collect regularly for the Flora of California of the proper practices regarding disposal of specimens. I deeply regret this was not done in your case. The situation brought up by your letter . . . is painfully embarrassing. None of the correspondents who support the Flora of California ever send material elsewhere. Not in the least would I labor for years to get results and have these results anticipated by the sending of specimens elsewhere." Vesta then wrote Mr. Howell asking him not to publish the *Mimulus*. He graciously acquiesced. She then wrote Jepson to assure him that no others would see the material until after the publication of the Scrophulariaceae in the *Flora*. (Currently, this Ben Lomond specimen is treated as *M. androsaceous*.)

After Jepson's death in 1946, Vesta continued to correspond with other botanists. She maintained active botanical interactions with Rimo Bacigalupi and Annetta Carter at Berkeley, John Thomas Howell at the California Academy of Sciences, and Roxana Ferris and John H. Thomas at Stanford until about 1968, when she stopped collecting plants. In all, Vesta made about 3350 numbered collections. The first set she bequeathed to the junior author and duplicates of many of these are housed at CAS, DS, and UC. Most of her collections were of vascular plants, although in later years she also collected lichens and bryophytes. She published five papers or notes, three of which were printed in Madroño.

After a long bout with cancer, Vesta died in Berkeley on December 9, 1982 at the home of her nephew, Siegfried Hesse. The Boulder Creek Historical Society has entered her name on their plaque as one of Boulder Creek's outstanding citizens.—ANNETTA M. CARTER, Dept. of Botany, Univ. of California, Berkeley 94720 and JOHN H. THOMAS, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Stanford Univ., Stanford, CA 94305. (Re-submitted 13 Nov 1985; revision accepted 17 Jul 1986.)

NOTEWORTHY COLLECTIONS

CALIFORNIA

ERIGERON SUPPLEX A. Gray (ASTERACEAE).—Sonoma Co., two localities on The Sea Ranch and e. of Coast Hwy., T10N R14W S35: 5.1 km s. of Mendocino Co. line